

In re Application of: Jade et al.
Application No.: 09/892,989

Remarks

In the application, claims 1 through 35 are pending. No claims currently stand allowed.

The Office Action dated November 19, 2003, has been carefully considered. The Office Action rejects claims 1 through 12 and 15 through 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious in light of the publication "Spying on COM Objects" ("Leman") and rejects claims 13 and 14 as obvious in light of Leman and U.S. Patent 6,091,422 ("Ouaknine").

Claims 11 through 16, 20, 21, 24 through 26, and 29 are amended to correct informalities such as lack of antecedent basis. Claims 1, 17, and 18, all the currently pending independent claims, are amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention. These amendments are supported by the specification at, e.g., page 17, lines 6 through 24. The same parts of the specification similarly support new dependent claims 32 through 35.

The article by Dmitri Leman discusses debugging an application by intercepting and spying on the application's calls to Microsoft's COM interface functions. As the Examiner notes, however, Leman does not discuss the particular aspects of spying on graphics primitives. Furthermore, as Leman's focus is on debugging, his article does not describe using the intercepted information in real-time to alter the output of the calling process. The present invention, on the other hand, intercepts calls to graphics primitives not for the purposes of debugging, but for deciphering the information that is to be written to a display device in order to alter it before display or to use the intercepted information in some other way. As a first example, the intercepted graphics primitive attempts to write an English-language warning message to the display. Upon capturing and interpreting this primitive, the calling process causes an equivalent Spanish-language warning message to be displayed instead. In a second example, the calling process allows the warning message to be displayed unaltered, but also translates the warning text into speech and plays the speech through the computer's speakers.

In order to emphasize this very different use of the intercepted information, all of the presently pending independent claims are amended. For example, claim 1 now includes the text:

Claim 1: *producing, by the calling process, an output, the output based, at least in part, on the returned graphics primitives and attributes associated with such graphics primitives.*

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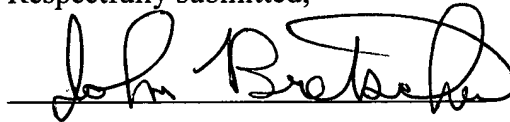
(Emphasis added.) Claims 17 and 18 have similar language. Given Leman's focus on debugging, his article never even hints at this possible use of the intercepted graphics information.

Thus, the invention as presently claimed moves beyond anything discussed or suggested by the cited art. The cited art neither anticipates nor renders obvious the presently pending independent claims 1, 17, and 18. The other pending claims are dependent upon these claims and are thus allowable for at least the reasons given above. Applicants request that the rejections be withdrawn and that all currently pending claims be allowed.

Conclusion

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John T. Bretscher", written over a horizontal line.

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